

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IO-03 PM-03

SAJ-01 L-02 PRS-01 ACDA-10 SP-02 /066 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USMISSION GENEVA

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND

S E C R E T STATE 199673

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REPLY TO CARAMANLIS LETTER

REF: (A) NATO 4875; (B) USNATO 4844; (C) ATHENS 6210

1. YOU SHOULD TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW WITH SYG
LUNS AND OTHER PERMREPS APPARENT DESIRE OF A NUMBER OF
ALLIES TO SEND EARLY RESPONSES TO THE CARAMANLIS LETTER

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OF AUGUST 28, INDICATING THAT WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE

MATTER FURTHER AND FEEL STRONGLY THAT IT WOULD BE AN ERROR TO RESPOND NOW IN THE FASHION PROPOSED IN MEETING OF THIRTEEN (USNATO 4875) TO THE CARAMANLIS LETTER. WHILE WE DO NOT OPPOSE A RESPONSE AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, WE DO FEEL THAT THE TIMING OF SUCH A RESPONSE IS A MATTER OF COMMON CONCERN, AS IS THE CONTENT OF A RESPONSE INSOFAR AS IT MIGHT LEAD GREECE TO ACCELERATE ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO.

2. OUR REASONS FOR URGING THAT NO ANSWER BE SENT NOW ARE:

(A) AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, GREECE HAS NOT PRESSED TO IMPLEMENT ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO. THUS, RESPONSE BY THE ALLIES TO A LETTER FROM CARAMANLIS IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED GREEK DECISION AND STATED THAT GREECE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT ITS IMPLEMENTATION COULD FORCE THE GREEKS TO MOVE TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION SOONER THAN OTHERWISE WOULD BE THE CASE.

(B) IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS USEFUL FOR THE ALLIES TO RECALL THAT THE US HAS A VARIETY OF MILITARY FACILITIES IN GREECE AND WE DO NOT WISH TO PRECIPITATE AN EARLY REVIEW OF THEIR STATUS.

(C) REPLIES, UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN THOUGH ANODYNE IN CONTENT COULD BE OPEN TO THE INTERPRETATION THAT THE ALLIES, BY NOT REJECTING SOME OF THE MORE EXTREME STATEMENTS IN THE CARAMANLIS LETTER, ACCEPTED THEM. SUCH AN IMPRESSION, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT VERY DELICATE AND DIFFICULT EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS ON CYPRUS, COULD DIVERT THE PARTIES INVOLVED FROM THESE EFFORTS. THIS CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF ANY OF THE ALLIES.

3. IF, NEVERTHELESS, AN ALLY FEELS CONSTRAINED TO RESPOND IN SOME FASHION OUT OF CONCERN THAT FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD, WE URGE THAT THE OPERATIVE PORTION OF THE MESSAGE BE LIMITED TO AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT AND A STATEMENT THAT THE MATTER IS UNDER
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CAREFUL STUDY.

4. FOR LONDON: YOU SHOULD STRONGLY URGE UK SUPPORT FOR OUR EFFORTS TO POSTPONE THE SENDING OF REPLIES BY THE VARIOUS ALLIES TO THE CARAMANLIS LETTER, AND TO MINIMIZE THE CONTENT OF THE REPLIES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE199673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GBHELMAN/DB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740253-0657
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740955/aaaabucv.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: (A) NATO 4875; (B) USNATO 4844; (C), ATHENS 6210
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED REPLY TO CARAMANLIS LETTER
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, GR, TU
To: NATO BRUSSELS LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005